

said shaft is located approximately halfway between the front edge and the back edge, and when said reading section pivots away from said recording section, the front edge moves to a position below said shaft.--

--23. A multi-functional device comprising:

an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;

a shaft supported on said outer casing;

a recording section that records images on a recording medium;

C₂
C₂⁻⁴
a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and pivotable about said shaft, wherein when said reading section pivots away from said recording section, a space is provided above said recording section, and said recording section is exposed outside through said space; and

a document discharge tray pivotally and detachably mounted on said reading section near the front edge of said reading section for receiving documents discharged from said reading section, wherein said document discharge tray is maintained at a predetermined angle with respect to a direction in which the documents are discharged when in use and is pivotable in a direction opposite the pivoting direction of said reading section, wherein

said document discharge tray moves integrally with the pivoting movement of said reading section.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11, 14-16 and 21 are amended to distinguish over the applied references. New claims 22

and 23 are added. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 12-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate all of the features of the base claim. However, for the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1-23 define patentable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,276,536 to Hokamura; rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hokamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,133 to Saito; and rejects claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hokamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,117 to Tanoue. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In particular, Applicants submit that none of the applied references suggest or disclose a multi-functional device comprising an outer casing having a front side, a rear side, opposing front side and a lower side, a shaft supported on the outer casing, a recording section that records images on a recording medium, and a reading section that reads images from a document, the reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of the outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge left and right walls in a lower surface, the reading section being disposed above the shaft and pivotable about the shaft wherein when the reading section pivots away from the recording section, such that the front edge moves forward and downward, a space is provided above the recording section and a recording section is exposed outside through the space, as recited in amended claim 1.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Hokamura instead teaches an image apparatus provided with a main body and a cover member which is swingably connected to the main

body including a recording section that records images on a recording medium, and a reading section that reads images from a document. The reading section 50 of Hokamura is disposed above the shaft 25. The document path is open by swinging in the operation panel 22 with respect to the panel frame 21 about the swing shaft 25 as the support point of the operation panel 22. With the arrangement in Hokamura, the reading head 50 is arranged such that the head frame 53 is swingably supported by a panel frame 21 through a rotation shaft 54 on the paper feed unit 30. However, in Hokamura, the cover pivots about a shaft on a rear side, opposite from a front edge in coincidence with the front side of the outer casing. Thus, the cover of Hokamura pivots away from the recording section, such that the rear edge of the outer casing moves rearward and downward. Accordingly, the cover of Hokamura pivots away from the recording section, such that the rear edge moves rearward and downward. This is directly contradictory to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Hokamura.

The Office Action relies on Saito to teach that the recording section can be an ink-jet printer. However, Applicants submit that Saito fails to supply the deficiencies of Hokamura with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Hokamura and Saito for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable over Hokamura.

The Office Action relies upon Tanoue to teach *inter alia*, a cover mounted document reading unit and discharge tray, wherein the discharge tray is pivotably and detachably mounted near the front edge of the reading section. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Tanoue fails to supply the deficiencies of Hokamura with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 8-11 are patentable over the combination of Hokamura and Tanoue for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is patentable over Hokamura.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-5, 7 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the rejections of claim 6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be necessary in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PDM/kys

Attachments:

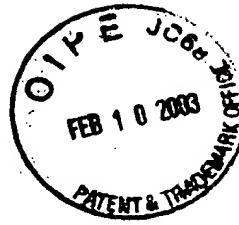
Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
Appendix
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: February 10, 2003

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APPENDIX



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Changes to Claims:

Claims 22 and 23 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A multi-functional device comprising:
 - an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;
 - a shaft supported on said outer casing;
 - a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and
 - a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and pivotable about said shaft, wherein when said reading section pivots away from said recording section such that said front edge moves forward and downward, a space is provided above said recording section, and said recording section is exposed outside through said space.
2. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reading section is disposed closer to the front side of said outer casing than said recording section and is ~~rotatable~~ pivotable toward the front side of said outer casing.
4. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control panel having a front end substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a rear end opposing the front end, and a lower surface, wherein said reading section is disposed on the lower surface of said control panel and ~~rotatable~~ pivotable together with said control panel, such that the front end of said control panel ~~rotates~~ moves downward.

5. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a document holding section that extends from the rear end of said control panel for supporting documents to be conveyed to said reading section, wherein said document holding section ~~is rotatable~~moves together with said reading section, and serves as a cover for covering said recording section when not ~~rotated~~moved open.

6. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said recording section comprises an ink-jet-printer provided with an ink cartridge that can be upwardly removed from said ink-jet printer after ~~rotating~~pivoting said reading section away from said recording section.

8. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a document discharge tray pivotally and detachably mounted near the front edge of said reading section for receiving documents discharged from said reading section, wherein said document discharge tray is maintained at a predetermined angle with respect to a direction in which the documents are discharged when in use and is ~~rotatable~~pivotable in a direction opposite the ~~rotating~~pivoting direction of said reading section.

10. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a recording paper discharge tray having an underside, right side and a left side, said recording paper discharge tray being provided on the front end of said outer casing for receiving recording paper discharged from said recording section, said recording paper discharge tray normally slanting upward and being displaced downward due to contact from said reading section when said reading section is ~~rotated~~pivots away from said recording section.

11. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising an urging member, wherein said recording paper-discharge tray is ~~rotatably~~

pivotally supported on said outer casing and is supported by said urging member to slant upward.

14. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said document discharge tray contacts said recording paper discharge tray when said reading section ~~is rotated~~ pivots and rotates in a direction opposite the rotational direction of said reading section into a retracted position.

15. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said outer casing comprises left and right side covers, between which said reading section is ~~rotatably~~ pivotally supported on said shaft; said reading section has left and right walls on which ribs are formed, the ribs being in sliding contact with said left and right side covers at all times, even when said reading section is rotated.

16. (Amended) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the back edge of said reading section protrudes above said left and right side covers when said reading section ~~is rotated~~ pivots; the ribs comprises linear protrusions extending in a direction nearly parallel to said control panel, such that one portion of the ribs protrudes above said left and right side covers when said reading section pivots ~~is rotated~~.

21. (Amended) A multi-functional device comprising:

- an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;
- a shaft supported on said outer casing;
- a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and
- a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and ~~rotatable~~ pivotable about said shaft in a manner

that said front edge moves forward and downward so as to separate from said recording
section, whereby a space is provided above said recording section.